(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra and Goa have taken any steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c)As per the information furnished by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), the Maharashtra Coast receives treated effluents from Common Effluents Treatment Plants (CETP) and waste water from cities and towns and from non point sources.

As per Goa Pollution Control Board except for oily substances in sea water in July 2005, no complaints of pollution in sea water due to hazardous chemicals have been received.

Regular monitoring and enforcement of environmental standards notified for protection of marine outfalls are being carried out by the State Pollution Control Boards Studies have also been carried out through Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, in case of specific incidence of pollution by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

Pollution due to Nitrogen Dioxide in Delhi

344. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to increased use of CNG in Delhi, the level of nitrogen dioxide is increasing thereby polluting environment and causing ailments like asthma and bronchitis as per the recent air quality survey of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB); and

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to reduce the level of nitrogen dioxide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The monitored data of

Ambient Air Quality in Delhi indicates that the levels of Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) at certain residential and industrial areas have shown increasing trend during the year 2004-05 as compared to the year 2003-04. However, at traffic intersections, there is a decrease of 5% of NOx level during 2004-05 compared to 2003-04. As industry and power generation also contribute to NOx emissions, the increasing trend at certain locations cannot be attributed to the use of CNG in Delhi.

(b) The steps initiated to abate air pollution *inter-alia* include the following:

* Notification of general and source specific environmental standards;
* Identification of sources of pollution;
* Enforcement of auto exhaust standards for vehicles at manufacturing stage;
* Introduction of Bharat Stage-ll and Stage-Ill emission norms for vehicles;
* Introduction of improved Pollution Under Control (PUC) certification system for in-sue vehicles;
* Cleaner fuels and improved technologies for power generation; and
* Regular monitoring for environmental compliance.

Loss of Forest Cover, Mangroves and Wetland

345. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had lost half of its forest coverage, 40 per cent mangroves and a significant part of its wetland in the past couple of centuries, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the schemes being implemented by Government to save the forest cover of the country, and the achievement made therein during the last three years; and

(c) the total financial allocation for such schemes in the Tenth Five Year Plan?